

Appl. No. 09/595,309
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 July 2004

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, and are allowed, and are allowed.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s) and/or labels in parentheses, and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

The Office action objects to claims 1-11 for containing parentheses. The nonstatutory amendment removes these parentheses. The amendment does not change the scope of the claims in any way. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure for containing parentheses. The amended Abstract contains no parentheses. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to the drawings, asserting that "Fig. 1 is not completely labeled." Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Fig. 1 is completely and adequately labeled as necessary for a complete understanding of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying description in the specification. The Office action does not point to any particular rule that is not completely satisfied by Fig. 1, and does not supply any guidance as to what portion of the figure is incorrect or has anything wrong with it. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested. If the Examiner wishes to maintain this objection he is respectfully requested to point out with particularity in what respect he believes the figure is "not completely labeled," and to provide the appropriate form paragraph from the MPEP.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is

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respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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